

International

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda sworn in again for a second five-year term.

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda was sworn in for a second five-year term.

On this occasion, the 60-year-old economist, Mr. Nausėda proposed increasing Lithuania's defense budget to four percent of GDP. This would allow Lithuania to fund long-range air defense, a missile shield for the Baltic Sea coast, and border fortifications.

Nepal's PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' loses vote of confidence in Parliament.

Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, 'Prachanda' lost the top executive post after failing to secure a vote of confidence in the Parliament.

Prachanda lost trust vote as the largest party in his government, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) withdrew support.

The House of Representatives, 194 members voted against his vote of confidence proposal whereas 63 members voted in favour while a member stood neutral. He had to get the support of 138 lawmakers to prove his majority.

NATO & Republic of Korea sign agreement on mutual recognition process for military airworthiness certification.

South Korea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have signed an agreement on a mutual recognition process for military airworthiness certification.

It is NATO's first such deal with an Asian country. Under the deal signed, NATO will recognise Seoul government's airworthiness certification for South Korean-made planes.

Important Days

International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms: 12th July.

July 12 marks the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, which aims to raise awareness of the growing health and environmental challenges they pose.

The impacts of sand and dust storms are felt in all regions of the world, affecting both

developed and developing countries. At least 25 percent of global dust emissions originate from human activities, and in some areas, desert dust has doubled in the 20th century.

Science and Technology

New species of dogfish shark discovered in Kerala harbour.

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of deep-water dogfish shark, *Squalus hima*, from the Sakthikulangara fishing harbour in Kerala along the Arabian Sea.

Squalus is a genus of dogfish sharks in the family Squalidae, commonly known as spurdogs, characterized by smooth dorsal fin spines.

National

NITI Aayog Releases SDG India Index 2023-24.

NITI Aayog released SDG India Index 2023-24 and said India is progressing toward the Sustainable Development Goals despite global headwinds. SDG India Index is the country's principal tool for measuring national and subnational progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The composite score for India improved from 57 in 2018 to 66 in 2020-21 to further to 71 in 2023-24.

Business and Economy

India's index of industrial production grows by 5.9 % in May 2024.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in India rose 5.9 percent in May this year over the corresponding period of the previous year. The IIP growth rate in May 2023 was 5.7 percent.

Mining experienced a year-on-year growth of 6.6 percentage points. Manufacturing saw a growth of 4.6 percent while Electricity recorded a significant year-on-year growth of 13.7 percentage points.

Food inflation hits 9.4% in June 2024.

India's annual consumer price inflation crept up to four-month high of 5.08% in June compared with 4.21% in previous month.

The spike was led primarily by food inflation as it soared to 9.36%.

Annual inflation rate for rural and urban is 5.66% and 4.39%, respectively. The consumer price index edged up 1.33% compared to May 2024.

NABARD unveils ₹750-cr. agriculture fund to promote innovation.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced an agri fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (Agri-SURE), with initial corpus of ₹750 crore to be managed by its wholly owned subsidiary Nabventures.

The fund is structured to support about 85 agri start-ups with investment sizes of up to ₹25 crore each by the end of its term. The fund will provide support through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic, and debt alternative investment funds (AIFs), as well as direct equity support to start-ups.

Sports

Sriram Balaji and Gonzalo Escobar advanced to men's doubles finals at Braunschweig Challenge

In Tennis, India's N. Sriram Balaji and his partner Gonzalo Escobar of Ecuador have advanced to the men's doubles finals at the Braunschweig Challenger, also known as Brawo Open in Braunschweig, Germany.

They defeated the fourth-seeded pair of Denys Molchanov of Ukraine and Matwé Middelkoop of the Netherlands in straight sets, 6-3, 7-6.

Carlos Alcaraz enters into Wimbledon Final

In Wimbledon Tennis, defending champion Carlos Alcaraz defeated Daniil Medvedev in Men's single semifinal in London tonight to reach his second straight final at the tournament.

The Spaniard is now one win away from completing the elusive Channel Slam — winning both the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back in the same calendar year. Alcaraz had also triumphed at the U.S. Open in 2022.